

IN THE CLAIMS

--1. (Currently Amended) A method of inhibiting hair growth, which comprises topically administering to an affected area of a subject in need thereof an inhibitor of elastase-like enzymes ~~or a neutral endopeptidase inhibitor~~, wherein said inhibitor of elastase-like enzymes is not a matrix metalloproteinase inhibitor, and wherein said inhibitor of elastase-like enzymes is not a mercaptopropionamide compound.

Claim 2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the inhibitor of elastase-like enzymes is an inhibitor of an elastase-like enzyme derived from a dermoepidermal fibroblast.

Claims 4-5 (Cancelled)

6. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said subject is a human.

Claims 7-21 (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said inhibitor of elastase-like enzymes is a ~~phosphonic~~ phosphonic acid compound, or a derivative or salt thereof.--